

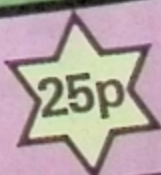


# ALEX MATCH DAY MAG

The official Magazine of Crewe Alexandra



Football League Cup 1st Round, 2nd Leg  
Crewe Alexandra v Wigan Athletic  
Wednesday, 13th August, 1980  
Kick-off 7.30 p.m.





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Crewe Alexandra F.C. Official

Programme — Compiled and

Edited by Harold Finch.

## From the Boardroom....

To many football supporters, the fact that I can be correctly described as a member of the Board of Directors of Crewe Alexandra F.C. conjures up all sorts of ideas of what is required or indeed expected of them. This is not an attempt to either sing its praises or otherwise but when we refer to 'our team', the people who constitute the present Board of Directors are as much an integral part of that team as those who wear our colours during the season.

We all have our part to play in the overall running of the club and naturally there are specific areas in which each of us put our energies and expertise. What we are all working towards is success for Crewe Alexandra and with that success some reward for the loyal fans we have. It may have been said before, but praise is never wasted, and we were all very grateful for the fine support you, the public gave us last season, even when we were gaining little or no success.

Selling a small club has never been an easy task but in the present climate of uncertainty especially in industry it is most gratifying from our point of view to see what an excellent response we have from the various commercial concerns in the area which has enabled us to have far more ground advertising than previously seen.

Pre-season games are used by some as a true indication of what to expect during an actual season but as we all know many clubs use these games to experiment with various ideas. At Chester we lost narrowly and Tranmere Rovers also took advantage of their chances. However, at Stockport after falling behind we hit back and ran out worthy winners. The other pre-season event that was a great success was the Open Day, so ably organised by the 101 Committee when close on 2000 people visited Gresty Road to meet the players etc, I am sure that this venture will without doubt become an Annual event.

Norman Hassall.

### MASCOT FOR THE DAY

This evening is Christopher Mark Dale, aged 9 of 7 Ripon Drive, Berkeley Park, Wistaston.

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|              | P    | W  | D  | L  | F  | P    | W  | D  | L  | F  | Pts |
| Huddersfield | 40   | 15 | 5  | 2  | 61 | 18   | 11 | 7  | 5  | 40 | 30  |
| Walsall      | 45   | 12 | 9  | 2  | 43 | 23   | 11 | 9  | 3  | 32 | 24  |
| Newport      | 45   | 15 | 5  | 2  | 47 | 22   | 11 | 2  | 10 | 36 | 25  |
| Portsmouth   | 45   | 15 | 5  | 3  | 62 | 23   | 5  | 7  | 7  | 29 | 25  |
| Bradford     | 46   | 14 | 5  | 3  | 44 | 14   | 10 | 6  | 7  | 33 | 35  |
| Wigan        | 46   | 13 | 6  | 1  | 43 | 20   | 8  | 8  | 7  | 34 | 35  |
| Lincoln      | 46   | 14 | 8  | 1  | 43 | 12   | 4  | 9  | 10 | 21 | 30  |
| Peterborough | 46   | 14 | 3  | 6  | 39 | 22   | 7  | 7  | 9  | 19 | 25  |
| Torquay      | 46   | 13 | 7  | 3  | 47 | 25   | 2  | 10 | 11 | 23 | 44  |
| Aldershot    | 46   | 10 | 7  | 6  | 35 | 22   | 6  | 5  | 11 | 27 | 30  |
| Bournemouth  | 46   | 8  | 9  | 6  | 32 | 25   | 6  | 9  | 9  | 20 | 44  |
| Doncaster    | 46   | 11 | 6  | 6  | 37 | 27   | 4  | 8  | 11 | 25 | 36  |
| Northampton  | 46   | 10 | 7  | 6  | 35 | 22   | 2  | 7  | 34 | 18 | 30  |
| Scarbrough   | 46   | 11 | 9  | 3  | 37 | 23   | 3  | 6  | 14 | 21 | 32  |
| Tranmere     | 46   | 10 | 4  | 8  | 32 | 24   | 4  | 3  | 10 | 18 | 32  |
| Stockport    | 46   | 9  | 7  | 7  | 30 | 31   | 5  | 5  | 13 | 18 | 41  |
| York         | 46   | 8  | 6  | 8  | 25 | 34   | 5  | 5  | 13 | 30 | 45  |
| Halifax      | 46   | 11 | 9  | 3  | 29 | 20   | 2  | 4  | 17 | 17 | 32  |
| Hartlepool   | 46   | 10 | 7  | 6  | 36 | 28   | 4  | 3  | 16 | 22 | 38  |
| Port Vale    | 46   | 8  | 6  | 9  | 34 | 24   | 4  | 6  | 13 | 22 | 48  |
| Hereford     | 46   | 8  | 7  | 9  | 22 | 21   | 3  | 7  | 13 | 16 | 31  |
| Darlington   | 46   | 7  | 11 | 5  | 20 | 26   | 2  | 8  | 15 | 17 | 48  |
| Cove         | 46   | 6  | 7  | 25 | 27 | 1    | 7  | 15 | 19 | 41 | 35  |
| Rochdale     | 46   | 6  | 7  | 10 | 20 | 28   | 1  | 6  | 16 | 13 | 31  |

Apart from the four clubs relegated from Division Three, Bury, Mansfield Town, Southend United and Wimbledon and the promotion of the top clubs in our own division at the end of last season there will be no new faces in the season which lies ahead. Just how close it was for a new club to be in the League is a question that no Rochdale fan will need reminding of, for when the votes were cast at the Annual Meeting of the Football League Rochdale were in by a single vote from the only non league applicants Altrincham. The real drama lay in the fact that two clubs, Grimsby Town and Fulham were unable to cast their votes and whether those vital votes would have made any difference or not will never be known.

Bob Stokoe who had seen his team finish in the bottom spot and then assisted in getting them re-elected has, since that time tendered his resignation and his assistant Peter Madden has taken over the reins at Spotland and will naturally be hoping for better times ahead this season.

At this same stage last season Port Vale and Tranmere Rovers were in opposition for the right for a second League Cup place, they do so again this season and either team would be delighted with a similar draw in the second round this time,

for as supporters will no doubt remember, Tranmere Rovers drew their Merseyside rivals Liverpool and were certainly not overawed by their illustrious opponents. Only six Fourth Division sides are guaranteed a place in the second round draw those being paired, other than ourselves are Aldershot v Wimbledon, Bury v Halifax, Doncaster v Mansfield, Port Vale v Tranmere and York v Hartlepool.

Other sides will no doubt also qualify for the second round but again as last year the second round is also being played in the home and away basis which makes progression so much harder than when the issue is decided on just one game. However, every season in Cup competitions a surprise team emerges, just whose turn it will be this time is all we are waiting to see.

Several clubs have been quite active in the transfer market, Hereford United under their Manager Frank Lord being one of them but so far the highest outlay by any club in the Fourth is the reported £50,000 fee paid out by Northampton Town for Steve Phillips, their former player from Brentford. Goals win games and obviously Northampton had this fact in mind when they decided to move in for this particular player.

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# WELCOME TO WIGAN ATHLETIC



WIGAN ATHLETIC (SEASON 1990-91)

Photograph Identification (left to right) — Back Row: Tony Quinn, Mike Quinn, George McAllister, Lawrence Tierney, Jeff Wignall, Paul Hendry, David Tait. Middle Row: Ian Gilbride (Coach), George Urquhart, Jim Oliver, Neil Davis, John Brown, Bob Ward, Colin McIlwain, Peter Houghton, Frank Corrigan, Ken Banks (Trainer/Coach). Front Row: Maurice Whittle, Mark Wignall, John Curtis, Tommy Gore, Ian McNeill, Dave McMullan, Bob Hutchinson, David Glenn and Dave Frostwell. Photography by courtesy of "Evening Post & Chronicle, Wigan".

## SPOTLIGHT ON WIGAN

Manager Ian McNeill Can look back on his two Seasons in League Football with more than a little pride for he has seen his team finish in the top ten of the Division in each of those Seasons. This is his second spell in charge at Wigan, for this former Leicester and Brighton player first came to Wigan in 1968 after managing Highland League side Ross County.

Two years later in 1970 the then Chairman, Mr. A. Horrocks sacked him but in a further two years fate took a hand, a disappointed Mr. Horrocks left the club when once again Wigan had failed to gain election to the League and went to Southport. A new chairman invited Ian to return to Wigan and this he readily did, Mr. Horrocks also returned to the club but when eventually Wigan did achieve League status it was at Southport's expense. Just how many applications were received before they were successful — in all 35.

Since their election they have made their presence felt in League and Cup competition. Last Season they went out in the first round of the League Cup to Stockport County but in the F.A. Cup they defeated Blackpool, Northwich Victoria and Chelsea at Stamford Bridge before finally going down to Everton at Goodison Park.

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# GRESTY ROAD ROUND UP

Football supporters have their own particular favourites amongst players, of that there can be no doubt. Here at Gresty Road one such favourite emerged last season, Bruce Grobbelaar, who, after a long wait was finally granted clearance to play and he made his debut against the team here as visitors this evening, Wigan Athletic.

No sooner had the final whistle gone against York City in the last game of the season when even the most hardened Crewe fan could not have been overwhelmed by the response which was given by the fans to the players who had so very nearly got us out of the bottom four places. Several of them commented afterwards, "if that is the sort of reception we get for finishing down the table, then just what would it have been like had we been in one of the top four places."

All connected with the club were most impressed by this spontaneous action and what we are all naturally hoping for during the season just beginning is that this time we shall have a successful one. From all accounts Bruce has been playing very well with Vancouver Whitecaps and was in their side who recently played Nottingham Forest over there. He gained valuable experience with us here at Crewe last season and we would all love to see him back, but with bigger clubs showing much more than a passing interest in him, this possibility seems that little more remote but whether it be as a player or just a visitor he will always be very welcome here.

# AS IT HAPPENED

30 years ago....New turnstiles had been installed at Gresty Road but it was reported that they clicked to "a sombre tune" for the pre-season trial match. The crowd of 2,500 was considered at the time to be disappointingly small.

The fans who saw the game were heartened immeasurably by the performances of the Alex new signings. Far and away the best man on the field was pocket sized left winger Reg Chapman, formerly of Hereford, who non-plussed the Blues defence by his crafty runs and accurate centres, which paved the way for two of his sides goals in a 5-0 rout by the Reds.

Teams: Reds — Elson; Parker, Young; Morris, Briggs, Meaney; G. Graham, Cook, Basford, King, Chapman.  
Blues — Evans; Hardstaff, Horby; Walton, Lindstrom, Hamilton, Barlow, Mulard, Phillips, Woods, Smith.

Tommy Briggs was appointed captain for the season with Tony Waddington deputy captain.

20 years ago....Crewe held their annual shareholders meeting and club chairman, Mr J.B. Parker, denied a rumour that the Gresty Road ground, then owned by British Railways, was to be taken from the tenancy of the club and used in connection with modernisation developments.

On the playing front, Jimmy McGuigan's staff limbered up the new season with the customary Reds v Blues practice match. Reds won 3-1 with goals from Jimmy Shepherd (2) and Billy Stark. Bert Llewellyn was on the mark for the Blues and Mr McGuigan was able to announce this line-up to receive Barrow in the opening Fourth Division game: Williamson; Tansey, Campbell; Keery, Wilmott, Whitehurst; Coleman, Riley, Llewellyn, Shepherd, Jones.

10 years ago....An early August 13 start to the Football League season saw Crewe open up with a 1-1 draw at Workington. Ivan Holtet headed Alex into a 35th minute lead, full back Joe Wilson equalised 55 seconds later, and Crewe goalkeeper Ernie Adams proceeded to earn his colleagues a point with a brilliant display.

Crewe team: Adams; Lowry, Leigh; Gater, Low, Bradshaw; Hince, McHale, Hollett, Morrissey, Wallace, Sub. Arnold.



# NEWS VIEWS

By Editor Harold Finch

Gradually, as the Season approaches, the amount of space in the Press, both National and local devoted to Football increases until we reach the stage when it is Cricket that is gradually pushed into the background. It seems quite a while since Mike England saw his Welsh National side soundly defeat England at the Racecourse ground on a very warm afternoon early in May, for Billy Bingham to see his Northern Ireland side win the home Championship title and a little later Nottingham Forest emulating Liverpool and winning the European Cup for the second successive season.

Those events were to be followed by the European Championship games held in Italy and disappointment for the highly fancied England side, the headlines once again being stolen by an element the game could be well rid of and whose actions could do this country some damage when the venue for the next European Competitions are allocated. From the Italian point of view what must have been more of a disappointment to them was the failure of their own national squad to reach the final stages with home advantage and also the poor attendances at many of the games. To host such a competition is one which requires a high capital outlay and the attendance at the final itself fell well below a capacity gate.

The transfer market has so far been relatively quiet, players have moved but exactly where Liam Brady of Arsenal will be going is no clearer at this stage. A surprise announcement too that Gary Birtles is available for transfer from Nottingham Forest. It certainly proves the point that none is indispensable, especially in football. Just how rigorous the medical checks on players are these days is clearly illustrated by the breakdown in the proposed transfer of Paul Maguire the talented Shrewsbury Town player who firstly appeared to be destined for Stoke City but then seemed set to go to Everton. The medical check revealed a long standing back injury and the proposed deal fell through.

One competition which got under way even before the League Cup competition was the Anglo Scottish Cup and with several attendances falling below the 2,000 mark the organisers and indeed the participating clubs will not be feeling too happy with those figures. Could it be that the football fan who during the normal League Season spends both a lot of time and money supporting his favourite side is perhaps saying 'the close season is possibly getting a little too short these days', time alone will tell.

Not so very long ago Crewe were drawn against Bury in the first round of the League Cup and in the return leg at Gresty Road a young Bury player who had been attracting the attention of several league clubs scored the Bury goal. The youngster was Wayne Entwistle and he eventually went to Sunderland and then to Leeds United, now available for transfer he may well be moving to Rotherham United, at only 22 years of age he most certainly has done some moving around so far in his career.



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## COVER FOCUS

Our cover personality this week is Wes Bromwich Albions stylish fullback **BRENDON BATSON**. Born Grenada, height 5'10", weight 11st 7lbs. Previous clubs Arsenal and Cambridge United.

# MEMORABLE MATCHES

BY DEREK HENDERSON  
ENGLAND 3, HUNGARY 6  
WEMBLEY, 1953

To appreciate the impact of such a scoreline upon the nation's football followers, one has to try to imagine the era in which it happened. Indeed, all historic events can only be judged in the context of the time in which they happened.

England were still deluding themselves that they were the best in the world and could prove it any time they wanted. The delusion was only magnified by our refusal to appreciate clear warning signs provided by our eclipse in the 1950 World Cup in Brazil in which we had even been forced to swallow the ignominy of a defeat by the United States — one of the world's minnows.

That grey day in London, the myth of English superiority was exposed for once and all. The Hungarians, led by the incomparable Ferenc Puskas, a tubby general with a left-foot that struck like a snake's tongue, tore us apart.

Somewhat, we had repelled all nations outside the British Isles until that day. Looking back, the Hungarians did us all a good turn — for they not only gave us a football lesson, but they made us take a long, hard look at our football, and our approach to it.

Today, ironically, we rank higher than the Hungarians in the world table. Though we fell short of winning the European championship this summer, the Magyars didn't even qualify. Such is the passage of time.....

However, in 1953 the Hungarians were the best, and their display that day at Wembley will never be forgotten by those fortunate enough to witness it.

Inside half an hour, the Hungarians led 4-1. That they didn't go on to make it a massacre rather than a considerable defeat was probably due in part to English grit in the face of adversity, and also to the inclination on the Hungarians' part that they had made their point.

In any event, a year later we were made to suffer an even worse humiliation — a 7-1 defeat in Budapest.

England's courage was typified by Stan Mortensen whose goal made it 4-2 at the interval. But any supreme optimists who hoped for a revival were dismayed when Bozzik, their wing-half and Member of Parliament, scored a fifth. It took an Alf Ramsey penalty to cut the final deficit to three goals.

As if to illustrate that nothing lasts for ever, the Hungarians failed to win the World Cup a year later. The hottest favourites in years, they lost to West Germany in the final in Bern — and the people back home couldn't believe it. To be runners-up was almost a national tragedy.

Despite that, the Hungarians gave the world something to remember, and we in England owe them a debt of gratitude for giving us reason for critical self-analysis.

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## Personality Profile

### What Now for Brian Clough?

Just what is there left for the amazing Brian Clough? What fresh fields, if any, are there left for him to conquer? Where does he go from here?

The questions are relevant and stimulating. But who has the answer? Perhaps not even Cloughie himself at this time. For when you have led two different clubs to the League championship — something no one else has done in modern times — and steered one of them to two successive triumphs in the premier European club competition, the European Cup, what else can you prove?

Continued motivation could be one of this extraordinary man's greatest problems. He has never suffered fools gladly, and is intolerant of anything less than a 100 per cent approach to the game from the man around him.

That includes the Nottingham Forest committee with whom he has had more than an occasional brush in his five remarkable years alongside them.

What must please the faceless men who run the Forest club is that their decision to appoint Clough in the middle of that dark winter of 1975 to get their club out of the doldrums, has been totally vindicated.

So vindicated, in fact, that the folk of Leeds must have wished more than once since, that things had worked out and that Clough had stayed at Elland Road instead of being shown the door after only 44 turbulent days there.

It was player-power that removed Clough from the managerial post at Leeds. The club has done nothing since to suggest that the players were right and the Leeds board equally right in going along with them in that fateful decision.

There is only one possible regret that Clough and his aide Peter Taylor might have after Forest's two Euro successes against Malmö and Hamburg in the last two years — that they didn't win the Cup in style.

They won it all right — no one can take that away from them. Their come-back against Dinamo Berlin on the way to Madrid last season was one of the great Houdini acts of modern times. But as Clough prepares to complete a hat-trick of Forest wins in this pinnacle of club achievement, he must hope that they do it with flair rather than efficiency.

For it must needle him that great personalities like Alfredo di Stefano, while praising Forest for their achievement, qualify it by saying they hope this isn't the way football is going.

Perhaps now they know what they are capable of, Forest, under Clough's baleful eye, will open up their skills rather than inhibit themselves.

The draw for the first round in this season's competition has paired them with the Bulgarian army side CSKA from Sofia — no mean test.

Forest are on the trail for honours again. Whether the Clough appetite is as great as ever remains to be seen.....



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# SOCCER SPOTLIGHT

BY TONY PULLEIN

## ALL RECORDS SMASHED

The transfer market went mad again this summer! And, at the count down to the new season, it seemed certain that more money would have been spent on transfers this close-season than ever before.

Liam Brady kept us wondering if he would become the first £2-million footballer as Manchester United, among others, were calculating if they could afford Arsenal's talented midfielder player.

Earlier, two more unlikely players had joined the £1-million club. Arsenal invested £1,250,000 in Q.P.R. striker Clive Allen whilst Nottingham Forest paid a similar fee for Coventry's Scottish international Ian Wallace.

Ever since Tommy Lawton was transferred for £20,000 back in the late forties, we have been asking ourselves where it was all going to end. But, in those days at least, managers invested mammoth fees only in proven stars whereas today many of the biggest deals are no more than gambles over a player's potential.

Take Clive Allen, an undoubtedly skilful player. He scored 30 goals for Second Division Q.P.R. last season — his first in League soccer. But how could a club like Arsenal have considered him to be in the seven-figure bracket?

Though Ian Wallace is a Scottish international, many would doubt that he is worthy of his current valuation.

The tragedy is that so many of today's big-money buys never fulfil their promise. Manchester City — not a typical example, I would agree! — invested £750,000 in Preston's untied striker Mick Robinson last summer. This close-season they were desperately trying to recover some of their losses by selling him for £400,000.

City, it seemed, were going to be happy enough to write off £350,000 on Robinson. But, when we remember that Southampton signed one of the world's greatest players Kevin Keegan for only £450,000, it does throw up a lot of embarrassing questions for Manchester City.

Indeed, City's losses on transfer deals over the past couple of years would have given them almost enough money to join in the bargaining for Liam Brady — a truly great player if ever there was one.

It's an ill wind, of course, and some clubs do derive great benefits from inflated transfer fees. Debt-ridden Fulham picked up £350,000 from Liverpool for midfielder Ian Rush. And Chester, another Third Division club, received £300,000 from Liverpool for striker Ian Rush.

Several smaller clubs stay in business simply by selling their best players. And big clubs who spend wisely can recoup their money by winning top prizes.

It's the irresponsible clubs, who inflate the market with false valuations, who do the game irreparable harm.

They still leave us gasping: "Where will it all end?"

The truth is, of course, that the spiral will never end.

### LOOKING BACK

This is one of the articles in a series in which the writer looks back down the years to some of the memorable matches, the great upsets, the disasters and tragedies that have befallen the game and the strange events that have become an integral part of the folklore of soccer.

The basis for these articles is taken from material in Derek Henderson's new book 'Soccer' published by Harlequin Books at £4.95p.

# PLAYERS PLEASE!!

Written for On Target by Football Historian Don Smith  
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Who better to feature in the first of this series but the great Sir Stanley Matthews, I always think very carefully before using the word great, football history must have proved that Sir Stanley is one of the few who has literally achieved success at every hurdle in our soccer world. Born Hanley, 1st February 1915. Won schoolboy honours, joined Stoke City as an amateur in September 1930 and signed professional in 1932. Sir Stanley played a total of 54 full internationals, this number would have been much greater, had the war not intervened. After the finish of hostilities Stanley joined the seaside club Blackpool and after two unsuccessful attempts to win an F.A. Cup winners medal, success came at last in the legendary "Matthews" Final — Blackpool beat Bolton 4-3.

Sir Stanley now resides in Malta, where until recently he still turned out for local clubs on the island.

Cards issued of special interest include: Wills No. 28 (1935), Hill No. 17 (1939), Churchman No. 29 (1938), Ardath No. 39 (1934), Turf No. 35 (1948), Barratt No. 35 (1955), Mitcham No. 16 (1956), BAC No. 3 (1955).



## A Statistical View of the League Cup

BY ARTHUR WALTERS

This season sees the coming-of-age of the League Cup being its 21st Season. Since the start of the competition back in 1960/61 there has been only 14 winners, although 97 clubs have taken part in the competition at some time or other. The League Cup is now regarded as a very high prize to any First Division club as a win in the final means a passport to Europe the following season. It was not until the 1960/70 competition that all 92 clubs entered for the first time, the last omission being Manchester United in 1960/61.

### FACTS

Highest home win: Wolverhampton 9-1 Barnsley 64/5.  
Highest away win: Coventry 1-8 Leicester 64/5.  
Highest attendance (including final): Man. Utd. v Man. City 63/79 semi 63,418.  
Lowest attendance: Crewe v Rochdale 78/9 1,344.  
Most games in one season was in 1979/80 when 163 ties were played.  
One team to play most games: Stoke 12 in 71/2 (eventual winners). Swindon 12 in 68/9 (eventual winners).

### STILL VILLA'S CUP!

If all the League Cup ties were placed together to form a table the top three would be....

|                    | P  | W  | D  | L  | F   | A   | Pts |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Aston Villa .....  | 37 | 51 | 27 | 19 | 107 | 125 | 129 |
| Nottingham .....   | 52 | 45 | 17 | 20 | 158 | 96  | 107 |
| Manchester C. .... | 78 | 41 | 18 | 19 | 140 | 100 | 100 |

### MILLENSTONES TO WATCH FOR IN 1980/81

Tottenham's first game in this season's competition will be their 50th in the competition, as will the first games for Colchester, Mansfield, Huddersfield, Gillingham, Rochdale. Second games for Sheffield Utd., Sunderland, Shrewsbury will be their 50th.

On the goal front: Heston's and Oldham's first will be their 50th, while Leicester have to score only one to make 100. WBA need 3 more to make 100, and Brentford need 4 for their 50th.

If Reading concede 2 they will have reached the 100th against, Coventry and Peterborough 3 each to reach 100 conceded. Rotherham 4 against to reach 100, and Chester 5 against to reach 100.

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# THE EUROPEAN ~A LEVELLIN

Through the long and sometimes tedious qualifying rounds for the European International Championship, and in the light of England's steadily improving international form, we all looked forward eagerly to mid-June and the finals of the tournament in Italy.

Most of that eager anticipation, however, came to naught in the light of England's failure to make the impression we had all been hoping for. Not only that, but the competition as a whole did little or nothing to stir the imagination of the average football fan, with hardly an entertaining match amongst the fourteen played.

With a number of participating countries seemingly determined to throw a choking defensive blanket over everything that moved; and with most of the more able sides somewhat short of their best form; good, open, attacking football took something of a back seat.

Whilst it would be true to say that there was little to choose between all the finalists — with the possible exception of Greece — one was left with an impression of over-all mediocrity rather than any great mass improvement. In other words it is probably true to say that comparative international standards have levelled out in a downwards direction over the past one or two seasons — which is a sad reflection on the game of soccer generally!

When you add to the lack-lustre performances, a pretty abysmal standard of refereeing; the appalling low over-all attendances — which have probably cost the Italians any hopes they might have had of hosting the 1990 World Cup Finals; and the manic behaviour of some of the English supporters which led to the tear-gas fiasco at England's opening game against Belgium; it all amounts to a European Championship which, at best, fell sadly short of expectations.

England, appearing in the final stages of a major international competition for the first time in ten years, had promised so much over the eighteen months or so leading up to the finals. In particular the 2-0 victory over Spain in Barcelona in March, and the splendid 3-1 win against World Champions Argentina at Wembley in May, had given cause for some high hopes that we would finish in the first three. In the event, however, those high

hopes proved to be rather ill-founded, although it has to be said that we were not blessed with the best of luck at times.

The root cause of the failure of Ron Greenwood's side lay in their inability to break down foreign defences, and their lack of penetration. With the exception of Tony Woodcock, who now looks to be developing into a genuinely world-class striker, no-one else looked capable of seriously threatening the blanket defences of the opposition. The lack of a recognised winger in the squad was particularly high-lighted against Belgium when we desperately needed a player capable of running at and through the Belgians' offside trap.

The arguments for and against wingers in the modern game will always rage, but the fact of the matter is that England were at times badly in need of more width. Steve Coppell sometimes fills the gap by operating wide on the right, but after a superb run of international performances in the run up to the finals he seemed somewhat out of touch in Italy, and, indeed, lost his place for the last game against Spain. The other point to bear in mind is that if you are going to operate without wingers it is essential to get defenders and midfield men forward to support the attack, and England's defenders simply did not go forward often enough nor with enough conviction.

Ron Greenwood mystified more than a few people with his team selection in Italy. Having apparently arrived at a first choice eleven, and picked what most people took to be that first choice side for the game against Belgium; he then proceeded to make three changes for the Italy game and six changes for the game with Spain. Over the three games he used a total of 20 players, which would seem to indicate that he is still not sure of his strongest team. The desire to keep all the players in the squad happy is one thing, but if we are to seriously challenge for the World Cup in 1992 the time has surely come when Greenwood should be arriving at a settled side, as opposed to a settled squad.

To be fair to the England side they were not helped by the section of the supporters who behaved so abominably during the Belgian match, with the result that England had to face enormous hostility from the crowds at their other games. Neither were they helped by some poor refereeing that robbed them of what seemed to be a perfectly good second goal against Belgium, and failed to give them the protection they might have expected against some, at times, horrific tackling in the game against Italy.

On the credit side, the defence looked reasonably sound with Dave Watson and Phil Thompson in commanding form in the middle. Kenny Sanson's fine performances must surely have assured his international future, whilst Viv Anderson had a good game against Spain. As ever both Peter Shilton and Ray Clemence looked the world-class keepers that they are — although Ron Greenwood must soon decide which one is to become the regular England goalkeeper — and Ray Wilkins, too, began to look like a very good player. For the rest it was all a bit disappointing, particularly in the case of Kevin Keegan and Trevor Brooking from whom we had expected so much, and both of whom, were, by their own high standards, disappointing.

However, Ron Greenwood must look to the future and the World Cup Qualifying rounds, and whilst we did not achieve the results we had hoped for in Italy, neither did we disgrace ourselves. Certainly there was no justification for the almost hysterical reaction of the usual 'silly section' of the British sporting press to England performances.

So much for England, but what of the opposition? Well West Germany were probably just about the pick of the crop, although even they had their shaky moments, particularly in the final when they let Belgium 'off the hook' and in the end were perhaps a little fortunate to win the match. Nevertheless, with six players out of the eleven who started the final under the age of 24 they will undoubtedly be one of the teams to beat in Spain in 1992. The 20 year old midfielder Bernd Schuster looked a very good player, as did full-back Hans Peter Briegel and striker Klaus Allofs who got a hat-trick against Holland.



Viv Anderson — made a rare appearance at international level against Spain.



# CHAMPIONSHIP IG DOWN?

BY JOHN D. KING



Steve Coppell in action

Belgium were undoubtedly the surprise of the tournament and at times looked a very good side. Prompted from midfield by the stocky and balding veteran Wilfried Van Moer — who was named 'played of the tournament' — and led up front by the surging runs of the powerful Jan Ceulemans, they concentrated on defence but broke quickly at times to look very dangerous. Having lived for so long in the shadow of their Dutch neighbours they could well become the more dominant of the two for the foreseeable future.

Holland look something of a spent force and with a number of their better players, including the experienced Rudi Krol, departing for the USA it seems unlikely that they will be amongst the leading contenders in Spain. Czechoslovakia, too, were disappointing, and for the most part looked rather ordinary. Italy turned out, perhaps not entirely unexpectedly, to be the thugs of the tournament! Without doubt Italian football is somewhat in decline these days, and they appeared to be reverting to cynical aggression as a substitute for skill.

Their performance in the first half of their match with Belgium was a disgrace, and owed more to the primitive instincts of the jungle than to a football stadium. Little Van Moer was literally kicked out of the game by half-time. With players like the somewhat inaptly named Gentile — who kicked Tony Woodcock up in the air on countless occasions — and the brutal Benetti — colourfully described on television by Laurie McMenamy as 'assassin' — 'greasing' the side, it has to be said that if any side has to adopt those sort of tactics to succeed it surely must be time to call a halt? In the end Italy got what they deserved — failure.

Finally we had Spain, who played some attractive football with little reward, and in Arconada had one of the best goalkeepers on view; and Greece who were somewhat over-awed by the occasion but nevertheless were a little unlucky to lose 1-0 to Holland and actually managed to hold the winners West Germany to a 0-0 draw!

## GROUP 1

Czechoslovakia  
Greece  
West Germany  
Czechoslovakia  
Czechoslovakia  
West Germany

West Germany  
Czechoslovakia  
Holland  
Greece

## GROUP 2

England  
Italy  
Belgium  
Italy  
England  
Italy

## RESULTS

|   |              |   |
|---|--------------|---|
| 0 | West Germany | 1 |
| 0 | Holland      | 2 |
| 3 | Holland      | 2 |
| 3 | Greece       | 1 |
| 1 | Holland      | 1 |
| 0 | Greece       | 0 |

| P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 5   |
| 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3   |
| 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 3   |
| 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1   |

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## STATESIDE

with JOHN KING

Alan Hinton, sacked by Tulsa Roughnecks at the end of last summer, must be more than happy with life in the North American Soccer League this season, for his Seattle Sounders team lead the Western Division of the National Conference by a massive 53 points margin from the Los Angeles Aztecs. With 128 points from 18 games, of which they have won 16 and lost just two, the Sounders are racing certainties for the playoffs and could well break the NASL record of 24 wins which is shared by New York and Vancouver.

Their success this season has been achieved with a team which includes a number of new faces. Roger Davies, Bruce Rioch, David Nish, Tommy Hutchinson, Roy Greaves and Swedish International Reine Almqvist have all settled in well; particularly Roger Davies who is providing the fire power up-front and is now nearing the twenty goal mark.

Hinton himself attributes much of the success to midfield player Alan Hudson who joined the Sounders last summer. He is reputedly in his old Chelsea and England form, and confesses that he is enjoying his football more than he has ever done.

\*\*\*\*\*

Two other teams looking like certainties to win their respective divisions are the perennial table toppers New York Cosmos in the Eastern Division of the National Conference, and Chicago Sting in the Central Division of the American Conference.

In the Central Division of the National Conference Minnesota Kicks have made a stirring recovery after languishing at the bottom of the league for the early part of the season. They have now climbed to second place and are chasing their old rivals Tulsa for the title. Minnesota have won the title in the Central Division for the past four seasons, but this season they may well have to settle for second place behind the Roughnecks. Nevertheless they should now qualify easily for the playoffs.

\*\*\*\*\*

Undoubtedly the two major disappointments this summer have been last year's champions Vancouver Whitecaps, and the highly fancied Washington Diplomats. The Whitecaps, who have recently signed Dutch International Rudi Krol from Ajax and released Alan Ball to Blackpool, have never come anywhere near repeating last season's form, although they may well still qualify for the playoffs.

With "Soccer Bowl 80" (the Championship Final) being held in Washington and Johan Cruyff in the line-up great things were expected of the Diplomats this season, but so far they just haven't clicked and are languishing in third place in the National Conference's Eastern Division behind New York and Toronto Blizzard. Cruyff is reported to be unhappy and has apparently fallen out with coach Gordon Bradley about his best position in the side.

The Dutch Star has also been going through a lean spell in front of goal, and has failed to get his name on the score sheet during a recent run of ten games.

\*\*\*\*\*

John D. King

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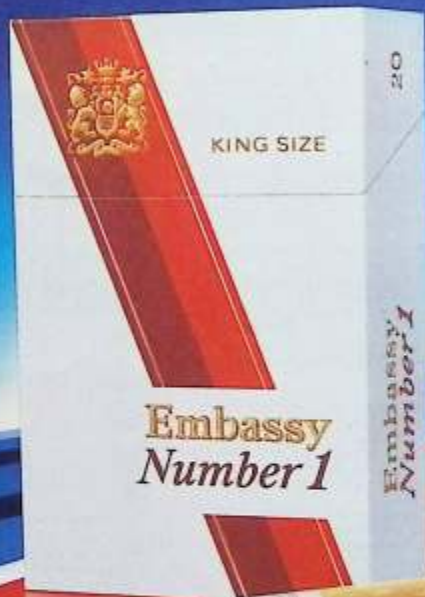
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EX-89V



# PLAYER PROFILE

For the first in this new series, our chosen player is IAN BOWERS, better known as Danny, but as so often happens behind most nicknames there is a story, so it is in this case. It transpires that way back in 1913 Stoke City had a player on their books named Bowers who was nicknamed 'Danny', seeing that the player was in fact Ian's grandfather then one can understand why it should have been passed on to him.

Born at Miles Green, near Audlem Ian's career started with Stoke City, he had been signed as an associate schoolboy and represented Staffordshire at County level. Signed as a professional when 18 he was altogether 6 years at Stoke. Married, his wife's name is Valerie and they have two children, a daughter, Dena aged 2½ and an infant son, Danny aged 6 months.

He vividly remembers his league debut for Stoke City, this was at Molyneux on the same day that Peter Shilton also made his debut for the Potteries club. So far as his career to date he chooses his highspot the game at Stoke when the Potters defeated Liverpool 2-0 with Terry Conroy getting one of the goals and the low spot, the game in which Sunderland dismissed Stoke from the F.A. Cup.

To the conventional type of question so often put to players, he gave the following answers.

**Favourite Food:** Steak.

**Favourite T.V. programmes:** Informative programmes and for humour Fawcett Towers.

**What do you do for relaxation:** Enjoy listening to a wide range of music and to go coarse fishing whenever possible.

**Any particular dislikes:** Traveling to away games, especially long distances.

**Ambitions:** To be successful and help to get promotion for the Alex.

**Type of car driven:** He is a non motorist.



**IAN BOWERS**

Photo by courtesy of Crewe Chronicle.

## FLOODLIT LEAGUE

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>AUGUST</b>      |   |
| 26—Chester         | H |
| <b>SEPTEMBER</b>   |   |
| 2—Wrexham          | A |
| 10—Port Vale       | A |
| 16—Shrewsbury Town | H |
| 23—Wigan Athletic  | A |
| <b>OCTOBER</b>     |   |
| 14—Port Vale       | H |
| 21—Wrexham         | H |
| 29—Shrewsbury Town | A |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b>    |   |
| 5—Chester          | A |
| 18—Wigan Athletic  | H |
| <b>JANUARY</b>     |   |
| 6—Chester          | A |
| 13—Wrexham         | A |
| 21—Port Vale       | H |
| 27—Shrewsbury Town | H |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b>    |   |
| 3—Wigan Athletic   | A |
| 10—Wigan Athletic  | A |
| 18—Chester         | H |
| 24—Wrexham         | H |
| <b>MARCH</b>       |   |
| 3—Port Vale        | H |
| 11—Shrewsbury Town | A |

## LANCS LEAGUE

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>AUGUST</b>            |   |
| 16—Port Vale Res.        | H |
| 22—Tranmere Res.         | A |
| 30—Manchester United "A" | A |
| <b>SEPTEMBER</b>         |   |
| 13—Manchester City "A"   | H |
| 20—Liverpool "A"         | A |
| 27—Sutton "A"            | A |
| <b>OCTOBER</b>           |   |
| 4—Morecambe Res.         | H |
| 11—Manchester United "A" | H |
| 25—Stockport "A"         | H |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b>          |   |
| 1—Sutton "A"             | H |
| 8—Carlisle Res.          | H |
| 15—Chester "AZ"          | A |
| 22—Manchester City "A"   | A |
| 29—Altrincham Res.       | A |
| <b>DECEMBER</b>          |   |
| 8—Chester "A"            | H |
| 13—Bolton "A"            | H |
| 20—Carlisle Res.         | A |
| <b>JANUARY</b>           |   |
| 3—Tranmere Res.          | H |
| 10—Port Vale Res.        | A |
| 17—Oldham Res.           | H |
| 23—Stockport "A"         | A |
| 31—Morecambe Res.        | A |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b>          |   |
| 7—Rochdale Res.          | H |
| 14—Oldham Res.           | A |
| 21—Bolton "A"            | A |
| 28—Barrow Res.           | A |
| <b>MARCH</b>             |   |
| 7—Liverpool "A"          | H |
| 14—Wrexham Res.          | H |
| 21—Rochdale Res.         | A |
| 28—Barrow Res.           | H |
| <b>APRIL</b>             |   |
| 4—Wrexham Res.           | A |
| 11—Altrincham Res.       | H |

# ALEX ACTION

All photography by courtesy of Robert Sproston.



The team salute the fans — v York last season.



The fans salute the players at the seasons end.





Goal No. 1 scored by Mick Guy.



Goal No. 2 — Bruce Grobbelaar dashes back after converting a penalty.

## FIXTURES

[illegible]

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## COMMERCIALLY YOURS

A pre-season entry into the League Cup by the Third and Fourth Division clubs gives me the opportunity to bid an early welcome to our supporters. Like everyone else at the club, I was delighted at the confidence shown in the Alex, when we polled 48 out of a possible 49 votes when seeking re-election at the A.G.M. of the Football League in June.

On the commercial side this heralded the relaunch of the Lottery, and everyone has been delighted with the results. The Tip Top Lottery hit the market on the Monday following the A.G.M. and was an immediate success. Business is still brisk, for in addition to all the usual prizes the Tip Top gives you the wonderful chance to win a Gold Sovereign.

Another new product on the market this week is the new Crewe Flyer. This is the Supporters Associations' own ticket, which now has over £1,300 in prize money. You can now win £500 on the Bingo competition, and the ticket still contains all the popular games which have made the Flyer such a success in the past. Agents for all our fund raising schemes are always required, the beginning of a new season is a good time to start, so why not call at the Promotions Office, or the Supporters Association Office in Edleston Road and get all the details, it's a great way to help your club.

There are still one or two spaces to be filled in our kit sponsorship scheme, see the table in this magazine. If you would like to make a donation towards a players kit call at the Promotions Office.

There are still some members of the Crewe's Away club who have not yet renewed their membership. May I remind all members that it is necessary to have a current membership card in order to make reservations on the coaches organised by the Travel Club. Our next trip is to Tranmere on Monday 18th August departing Gresty Road at 5.30pm. A full list of fares can be obtained from the Promotions Office. Details of each trip will be published in the special travel section of the match magazine.

New lines are arriving almost daily at the Souvenir Shop, which is situated directly opposite the main entrance to the ground, you are welcome to call in to browse around.

This year we are inviting youngsters as Mascots for the match of their choice. This is the ideal birthday present for any young lad. In addition to being mascot you get a replica Alex kit to keep. Meet and have your photograph taken with the players. Complimentary seats for the guardians. The total cost just £30.

□



## BALL DONORS

### BALL DONORS 1992/93

#### AUGUST

##### 13—Wigan Athletic

Graham Hinsley, Bookmakers, Newcastle, Staffs.  
The Advertiser.

##### 14—Torquay United

G.S. Ashton, Builders, 137 Badger Ave., Crewe.  
C. Newton, Painters & Decorators, 258, Hungerford Road, Crewe.

##### 30—Lincoln City

Enbneys Bakers, Newcastle, Staffs.  
Marissa Walton.

#### SEPTEMBER

##### 13—Wimbledon

D.H. Groot Ltd. Crewe Road, Watston.

##### 24—Halifax

Peter Slack, White Lion, Weston.

#### OCTOBER

##### 1—Bury

Graham Hinsley, Bookmakers, Newcastle Staffs.  
John Mitchell, Hassall Cottage, Alsager Road, Hassall, Sandbach.

##### 8—Hereford

Capet Craft, High Street, Crewe.

##### 11—Doncaster Rovers

Crewe Furniture Centre, High Street, Crewe.

##### 25—Rochdale

Duplex Litho Press Ltd., Newton Abbot.

##### 29—Southend United

Colin Parker Garages, Hungerford Road, Crewe.

#### NOVEMBER

##### 8—York City

Coppenhall Garage for Datsun.

##### 12—Tranmere Rovers

The Evening Sentinel.

##### 29—Mansfield Town

Lawton Tools Ltd., Newcastle Road, Sandbach.  
J.J. Cornes & Son, (for your Christmas turkey) Checkley.

#### DECEMBER

##### 29—Darlington

Progressive Printing, West Street, Crewe.

##### 27—Peterborough United

General Whitley Ltd.

#### JANUARY

##### 10—A.F.C. Bourmouthe

Lawton Tools Ltd., Newcastle Road, Sandbach.

##### 31—Aldershot

Nationwide Building Society.

#### FEBRUARY

##### 14—Souths United

Crewe Chronicle.

##### 21—Stockport County

Shaun McCarri, 36 Ruscoe Avenue, Sandbach.

#### MARCH

##### 7—Brenford City

D.R. Foster, A.G. Minshull, B.J. Swift, J. Lowndes.

##### 21—Northampton Town

G. Williams, Norwich Union.

#### APRIL

##### 4—Hartlepool

Crewe & District F.A.

##### 20—Wigan Athletic

G.S. Ashton, Builders, 137 Badger Avenue, Crewe.

#### MAY

##### 2—Port Vale

Graham Hinsley, Bookmakers, Newcastle, Staffs.  
John Mitchell, Hassall Cottage, Alsager Road, Hassall, Sandbach.



# TEAM CHECK

## Crewe Alexandra

Colours: Red Shirts, Black Collars, White Shorts.

- 1 **KEN MULHEARN**. Latest recruit to the Gresty Road staff and making his home debut this evening.
- 2 **DANNY BOWERS**. Hopes to go one better this season and make the full appearances in all competitions.
- 3 **KEVIN LEWIS**. Had an operation in the close season but now ready for action.
- 4 **GEOFF HUNTER**. Looking forward to getting on the scoresheet as early as possible and then regularly.
- 5 **BOB SCOTT**. Back in the heart of the defence once again with his usual partners.
- 6 **COLIN PROPHETT**. Still keeping up his record in having played in every game since he joined us from Chesterfield.
- 7 **JOHN MCMAHON**. Starting in his midfield role once again but can always switch to defence if necessary.
- 8 **MICK GUY**. Has now moved into the area and looking forward to this new season.
- 9 **TERRY CONROY**. Back to fitness after his operation and got on the score sheet at Stockport very quickly.
- 10 **MARK PALIOS**. Hopes the goal touch from his games last season continues again this time.
- 11 **DENNIS NELSON**. Captain of the side once again. Injured during pre-season training but keen to get back in action.
- 12 .....

## OFFICIALS

REFEREE: J.M. Warner  
(Wednesbury)

LINESMEN:

Red Flag: G.M. McManus

(Connahs Quay)

Orange Flag: F. Roberts

(Prestatyn)

**WORLD LEADER**

**Rothmans King Size**

the best tobacco money can buy

MIDDLE TAR As defined in H.M. Government Tables.  
H.M. Government Health Departments' WARNING:  
CIGARETTES CAN SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH

## Wigan Athletic

Colours: Blue & White Stripes.

- 1 **JOHN BROWN**. Bradford born John was an apprentice before he stepped into League Football with Preston at 17.
- 2 **DAVE FRETWELL**. Played as a schoolboy for Yorkshire and England at under-18 level before studying at Bradford University.
- 3 **MAURICE WHITTLE**. "Mr. Magic" as he is known to the Wigan fans, has had a very full and active professional career with Blackburn Rovers, Oldham Athletic and Fort Lauderdale.
- 4 **TOMMY GORE**. A former pupil at Liverpool Institute Grammar School, Tommy spent four years on Liverpool's books.
- 5 **COLIN METHVEN**. Manager Ian McNeill's deep knowledge of Scottish football enabled him to search out this player.
- 6 **NEIL DAVIDS**. Originating from Shipley, near Bradford, Neil played for Yorkshire Schools at right-back before joining Leeds United.
- 7 **DAVE McMILLAN**. Signed last year from Cumberland United, a Scottish junior club.
- 8 **JEFF WRIGHT**. Born in Alston in Cumbria, Jeff worked at the local foundry after leaving Grammar School. Played for Tow Law in the Northern League.
- 9 **PETER HOUGHTON**. Another member of Wigan's Merseyside contingent.
- 10 **BOB HUTCHINSON**. Ex. Hibernian and a skilful striker.
- 11 **LAWRENCE TIERNEY**. Ex. Hibernian and an extremely skilful midfield player.
- 12 **GEORGE URGUHART**. Joined his former boss Ian McNeill from Ross County for a nominal fee last year. Born in Glasgow.

## MATCH BALL DONOR

Graham Hinsley Bookmakers

★ ★ ★

The Advertiser